



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Water Board Distributes Preliminary Report and Preliminary Draft Order For the Regulation of Agricultural Discharges

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2010

**Contact: Roger Briggs
805-549-3140**

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board at its December 10, 2009 meeting in San Luis Obispo, directed staff to distribute a preliminary report and preliminary draft order for the regulation of discharges from irrigated lands on February 1, 2010. Water Board staff is distributing this preliminary report and preliminary draft order so members of the public can review, comment, and provide alternative recommendations for regulating agricultural discharges. Water Board members request that members of the public submit comments or alternatives to staff by April 1, 2010.

Agricultural discharges (primarily due to contaminated irrigation runoff and percolation to groundwater) are a major cause of water quality impairment. In the Central Coast Region, the impairment is well documented, it is severe, it is widespread, it impacts nearly all beneficial uses of water, and it is continuing. Immediate action is necessary to resolve the water quality impairments and prevent further degradation of beneficial uses.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff is proposing an order for the protection of water quality and associated beneficial uses to protect people's health, aquatic life, and the long term uses of Central Coast waters.

The Preliminary Draft Report, Draft Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order which includes the following documents as attachments is available at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/> under "Announcements":

- Preliminary Draft Order No. R3-2010-00XX, Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Agriculture of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands
- Preliminary Draft Report on Water Quality Conditions
- Draft Summary Table of Changes Related to Existing Conditional Waiver
- Draft Surface Water and Riparian Monitoring Sampling Parameters
- Preliminary Draft Initial Study and Environmental Checklist
- List of Literature Reviewed

The Central Coast Water Board is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties to the northern part of Ventura County.

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